

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 5-10, 12, 13, and 19 are directed to allowable subject matter. Additionally, in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,091,709 to Harrison et al. ("Harrison") and rejected claims 2-4, 11, 14-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Harrison.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 18, and canceled claims 12 and 19 without prejudice or disclaimer. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to substantially include certain features from claim 5 and claims 11 and 18 have been amended to include the features of canceled claims 12 and 19, respectively. Claims 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 have been amended to improve form.

Applicant submits that claims 11, 13-17, 18, and 20 now include features that were indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Accordingly, Applicant submits that these claims are in condition for allowance and the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Harrison. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to multiport network device including a plurality of receive ports; a plurality of transmit ports; a time-stamping component connected to receive the frames from the plurality of receive ports, the time-stamping component appending a time-stamp value to the received frames that correspond to voice transmissions; and output queues. The output queues are connected to receive the frames from an output of the time-stamping component. The output queues forward the received frames to appropriate ones of the transmit ports and expedite the forwarding of the received frames that have appended time-stamp values after a predetermined period of time has elapsed from the time-stamp

value. Each of the output queues further includes write side FIFO queues configured to receive the frames from an output of the time-stamping component, read side FIFO queues configured to transmit the frames received by the write side FIFO queue to the transmit port corresponding to the output queue, and a time-stamp control component that expedites the forwarding of the received frames that have the appended time-stamp values after the predetermined period of time has elapsed by controlling writing of the input frames in which the predetermined period of time has elapsed to the read side FIFO queues as soon as space is available in the read side FIFO queues.

Applicant submits that Harrison does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1, as amended. Harrison does not disclose or suggest, for example, output queues that include the write side FIFO queues and the read side FIFO queues, as recited in claim 1.

Harrison is directed to quality of service management for packet switched networks (Harrison, Title). More particularly, Harrison discloses a number of priority queues 10 which may be used to store packet flows having different priorities (Fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 19-28). The Examiner appears to contend that these forwarding queues of Harrison correspond to the claimed output queues (Office Action, top of page 3). Each of the output queues recited in amended claim 1, however, include write side FIFO queues and read side FIFO queues. Harrison in no way discloses or suggests that priority queues 10 include “write side FIFO queues configured to receive the frames from an output of the time-stamping component” and “read side FIFO queues configured to transmit the frames received by the write side FIFO queue to the transmit port corresponding to the output queue,” as recited in claim 1.

Amended claim 1 further recites “a time-stamp control component that expedites the forwarding of the received frames that have the appended time-stamp values after the predetermined period of time has elapsed by controlling writing of the input frames in which the predetermined period of time has elapsed to the read side FIFO queues as soon as space is available in the read side FIFO queues.” Applicant submits that Harrison does not disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1. As mentioned above, Harrison does not disclose or suggest read side FIFO queues. Accordingly, Harrison could not disclose or suggest controlling writing of the input frames in which the predetermined period of time has elapsed to the read side FIFO queues as soon as space is available in the read side FIFO queues, as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Harrison does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 based on Harrison should be withdrawn and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Harrison. Claims 2-4 depend either directly or indirectly on claim 1. Accordingly, at least for the reasons given above, Applicant submits that claims 2-4 are also not disclosed or suggested by Harrison and the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

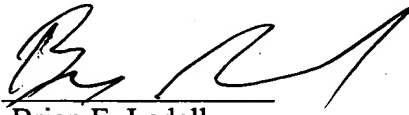
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 25, 2005

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